

1) ROLL CALL

Present when the meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. was Chris Ganotis, Chair, Lee Brooks, Vice-Chair, Shirley Carter, Brian Chevalier, Stanley Knowles, John Peterson and Alternates Lisa Wilson and Philip Thayer and Selectmen Representative Emily Creighton.

2) CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES . *March 11 and March 18, 2008*  
Tabled until next meeting.

3) TREASURER'S REPORT  
Tabled until next meeting.

4) NEW BUSINESS  
1. Election of Officers

*After a motion, duly seconded, it was voted that John be re-appointed as Treasurer.*

*After a motion, duly seconded, it was voted that Lee be re-appointed as Vice-Chair.*

*After a motion, duly seconded, it was voted that Chris be re-appointed as Chair of the Commission.*

2. Dave Kellum - Technical Assistance Grant

Dave explained the scope of the work that will be done with the Technical Assistance Grant. VHB of Bedford, New Hampshire has been chosen as the contractor. Their soil scientist will do an analysis of the soils in Town and prepare an analysis characterizing the buffers in Town. The report will also compare how the buffers in Town relate to public interest value (water quality, impact on the aquifers, flood control), and look at the buffers in relation to property values. Dave offered that the final document can be used by the ZBA to evaluate proposals in meeting some of the five criteria.

Conservation Commission members will be asked for their input on specific areas and knowledge of the Town. Discussion and choices followed regarding bulk mailings to the community for information and outreach. Members identified the Winnicut Watershed and Little River Salt Marsh as two environmentally sensitive wetland areas for VHB to assess.

3. Chris Bolton. Wetlands impacts on proposed house at  
24 Ocean Blvd., Map 001, Lot 040

Property owner Chris Bolton and Eric Mitchell of Eric Mitchell and Associates presented the plan to the Commission. Mr. Mitchell confirmed that State and LBH approvals are required as the property is located within the 100-year flood plan. The plan depicted the proposed geo-flow leaching system design, home location, septic location, test pit data, and wetlands boundaries. Mr. Bolton said native vegetation would be planted instead of a lawn which will negate the use of chemical fertilizers, the driveway will be lined with pavers, and a rock wall will be constructed along the rear of the property. The edge of the structure will be thirty-five feet from the wetlands boundary of poorly drained soil.

Commission comments included not recommending the proposal due to close proximity of the wetlands, a suggestion for property mitigation between the house and the wetlands that would intercept the flow of

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*These minutes were approved by a majority vote of the Conservation Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on May 6, 2008.*

failure, and alternate designs that would not require variances. t to the Shoreline Protection Act and will require the necessary

## 5) OLD BUSINESS

### 1. Update on Hiking trail-Eagle Scout Project

Scout representatives Mo Vincent and Richard Tharp joined the members to discuss Colin Gagnon's Eagle Scout Project status. The current condition of the trail and remaining items to be completed were outlined in Chris's April 3, 2008 letter to Mr. Vincent. Mr. Vincent reviewed the Eagle Scout Project process and procedure. Discussion ensued as to what is necessary for Colin to complete the project with several members indicating work they have done on the trail. The priority items needing attention are: removal of the stumps in the trail, completing two more bridges, and moving the green trail away from the test pits. Members scheduled to walk the trail with Mr. Vincent on Thursday, April 10, 2008 at 5:30 p.m.

*Colin arrived later in the evening after the Commission addressed several other items of business. For continuity purposes, his exchange is reported here.*

Colin indicated his willingness to complete the project and expressed frustration in hearing from a third party that the Commission is not pleased with the trail progress to date. Differing opinions were offered regarding the communication between Colin and the Commission and the current condition of the trail. Colin will attend the April 10<sup>th</sup> trail walk to review the outstanding issues and prepare a timetable for completion. Mr. Vincent offered that this project is a very involved one with a lot of scope and opined that something in writing at the onset would have benefited both parties.

### 2. Little River Salt Marsh Restoration Grant, Phase II: Grant award.

- Approval to use matching funds from Little River checking account. The Commission has been awarded the \$13,500 grant. Funds will be used to write the Phase II Restoration plan and pay for permit fees. Mary Currier at Rockingham County Conservation District will be overseeing the writing of the plan. Members agreed that funds from the LRSM account can be used as the matching funds.
- Payment to RCCD for proposal preparation. *After a motion, duly seconded*, it was unanimously voted to pay RCCD \$900.00 for the proposal preparation.
- NRCS Application status. The application was approved by the Board of Selectmen and federal funding is pending. The total cost of the project is approximately \$100,000 with the Town providing \$25,000. These funds will pay for the actual reconstruction work in the marsh.

### 3. Dalton Tree Farm

The forester has been retained and will begin the work after April 15<sup>th</sup>. Stan will walk the property boundaries with the Kelvin Dalton; a parcel map is being sent from Mary Currier. Management of the property was discussed and the various uses of the property stipulated. Members agreed that sanctioned uses of the property will include passive recreation (no recreational motorized vehicles with the exception of vehicles necessary for timber production), wildlife habitat, forestry management, and timber production. Access to the property is reached by parking near the right-of-way blocked with a cable wire.

Suggestions were made to relocate the cable further onto the land to provide for better parking off Exeter Road. A separate financial account will be established for the town forest to fund the Forest Management Plan and revenue from any timber harvest will be deposited into the account. Other revenue sources for the lumber was discussed.

### 4. Dupont land donation

The proposal was approved by the Board of Selectmen, subject to a clear title, an approved third party conservation easement and a satisfactory environmental assessment review. Rockingham County

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ewardship for approximately \$3,000. Members reiterated the habitat and an environmentally sensitive area. Phil talked as seen on the pond in early spring.

5. Letters for reappointments to Conservation Commission

Lee and Shirley have submitted their letters to the Selectmen. Re-appointments are scheduled for the April 14<sup>th</sup> BOS agenda and Chris received permission from the Commission to send a letter of endorsement on behalf of Lee and Shirley to the Selectmen.

6) OTHER BUSINESS

1. ZBA Application  
100 Woodland Road

Discussion followed on proposal of building that will be 60 feet from the wetland boundary. Chris read the April 8, 2008 letter from property owner Craig Salomon explaining the plan. Members confirmed that as a matter of policy, the Commission will continue to recommend against surface water runoff increases because the Town has already exceeded the ten percent impervious surface guidelines. The brook location in relation to the Little River was also considered an environmentally sensitive area. *After a motion, duly seconded*, it was voted with Lee and Shirley abstaining that the Conservation Commission recommend against approval of a variance because it is too close to an environmentally sensitive area, is within the 100 foot buffer, and it further exceeds the ten percent impervious surface guidelines which leads to continuous degradation of the wetlands.

2. New Hampshire House Bill Number 1472, Senate Bill Number 342

Phil Wilson spoke from the audience regarding bills before the New Hampshire House and Senate. Hearings are scheduled for April 15 and 18 in Concord and he asked that members contact their senators and representatives with their opinions. Phil explained that passage of the bill would allow development in areas within North Hampton previously prohibited by existing zoning ordinances. Lisa Wilson presented misleading written information provided to the representatives and senators and expressed concern regarding the tactics being used to gain passage.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janet Perkins  
Secretary